



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
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August 14, 2020

VIA SHAREPOINT

The Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Tommy Evans*
Agency Tracking No.: 2019-750

Dear Ms. Duhon:

Please file the attached *Charges*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Elizabeth Barrouquere
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Tommy Evans (via certified mail no. 7019112079862888)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STATE OF LOUISIANA
THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

IN THE MATTER OF

* DOCKET NO. 2020-_____-ETHICS__
*
*
*

TOMMY EVANS

* AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2019-750

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics (“BOE”) voted on August 6, 2020 to and **DOES HEREBY** file the following charge:

1.

On April 9, 2016, Tommy Evans (“Mr. Evans”) was elected to the office of Mayor for the Village of Clarence. The Oath of Office was administered on June 29, 2016 and Mr. Evans was commissioned on July 1, 2016.

2.

On December 24, 2018, Mr. Evans authorized the issuance of a check (Check No. 6359) in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be made payable to the Clerk of the Village of Clarence, Jacquetta Grayson (“Ms. Grayson”). Mr. Evans stated that the \$5,000.00 check was issued to Ms. Grayson as a severance package because Ms. Grayson resigned as the Village of Clarence on December 24, 2018.

3.

Despite Mr. Evans’ representation to the contrary, the Village of Clarence attorney did not approve the issuance of the \$5,000.00 payment to Ms. Grayson. Additionally, the Village of Clarence Village Council did not approve the issuance of the payment. Furthermore, the Village of Clarence’s Employee Handbook does not provide for the issuance of severance payments upon termination of public employment.

4.

La. R.S. 42:1117 provides the following:

No public servant or other person shall give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver or offer to give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver, directly or indirectly, to any public servant or other person any thing of economic value which such public servant or other person would be prohibited from receiving by any provision of this Part.

5.

La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1)(a) provides the following:

No public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

6.

Based on the foregoing facts, Mr. Evans violated La. R.S. 42:1117 by virtue of issuing a \$5,000.00 check to Ms. Grayson, who was not duly entitled to receive the payment in violation of La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1)(a).

7.

With respect to penalties, **La. R.S. 42:1153(B)** provides, in pertinent part:

Upon a determination that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics ..., the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

8.

La. R.S. 42:1155(A) further provides, in pertinent part:

If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory

Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.

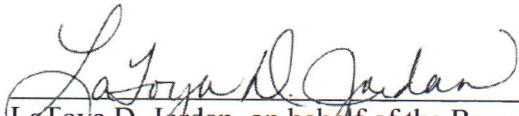
13.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141(C)(3)(b)(iv), the BOE designates LaToya D. Jordan and Tracy M. Barker as the BOE's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics respectfully requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board: (1) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charge; (2) determine that Tommy Evans violated La. R.S. 42:1117; and, (3) assess the appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted during the public hearing on this matter or at another time deemed appropriated by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS



LaToya D. Jordan, on behalf of the Board

P.O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Telephone: (225) 219-5600

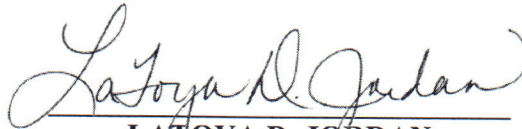
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *Charges* have been served on the Respondent by U.S. Registered or Certified Mail this 14th day of August 2020.

RESPONDENT:

Tommy Evans
P.O. Box 354
Clarence, Louisiana 71414


LATOYA D. JORDAN
Trial Attorney